

What Is Claimed Is:

1. An apparatus for controlling a microscope stage assembly comprising a bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means operatively arranged to be detachably secured to said microscope stage assembly.
2. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a substantially solid, circular rod with releasable attachment means.
3. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a substantially hollow, circular tube with releasable attachment means.
4. The apparatus recited in Claim 2 wherein said releasable attachment means is selected from a group consisting of a screws, rivets, magnets, adhesive, hook-and-eyes, and sprung detents.
5. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a distal portion, an intermediate portion and a proximal portion.
6. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said proximal portion is attached to said stage assembly, said intermediate portion connects said distal and said proximal portion, and said distal portion is disposed in space substantially perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of said stage assembly.
7. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means further comprises a gripping means operatively arranged to be detachably secured to said stage movement means.

8. The apparatus recited in Claim 1 wherein said bidirectional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a joystick.
9. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said bi-directional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a rod with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
10. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said bi-directional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a rod with a plurality of protuberances disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
11. The apparatus recited in Claim 1, wherein said bi-directional, ergonomic stage movement means comprises a one-piece, pre-formed substantially solid rod with a releasable attachment means.
12. The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
13. The apparatus recited in Claim 6, wherein said distal portion comprises a substantially solid, circular pole which tapers at the end.
14. The apparatus recited in Claim 7, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially hollow tube with a plurality of grooves disposed in space substantially parallel to one another.
15. The apparatus recited in Claim 7, wherein said gripping means comprises a substantially square, rotatable plate operatively arranged to be detachably secured to a distal portion of said stage movement means.

16. A microscope stage movement means comprising at least one substantially linear, rounded shaft with an attachment end and a gripping end wherein said attachment end is operatively arranged to be detachably secured to a microscope stage assembly.

17. An interchangeable microscope stage movement device for providing X and Y movement of a sample comprising:

a microscope stage assembly; and,
a joystick detachably secured to said stage assembly at more than one location of said stage assembly.